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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Transfer of the SAMOS, MIDAS and DISCOVERER Development Programs to the Department of the Air Force

Reference your memorandum of 17 November 1959 transferring responsibility for the SAMOS, MIDAS and DISCOVERER programs from the Advanced Research Projects Agency to the Department of the Air Force. In accordance with your decision, a briefing of the three Development Plans together with Development/Operational Annexes for SAMOS and MIDAS is to be given to the DDR&E and representatives of the three Services on 19 February 1960.

The Air Force Ballistic Missile Committee reviewed these programs on 10 February 1960. Approval to plan for their execution as presented was granted.

One copy of each of the Development Plans and Development/Operational Annexes is forwarded as an attachment to this memo. Specific action requested is as follows:

DISCOVERER Development Plan. This plan provides for a program of 29 flight vehicles and, in accordance with the guidance, continues the DISCOVERER program essentially as previously planned. To accomplish this it is necessary to allocate to the DISCOVERER program [redacted]. It is recommended that the DISCOVERER Development Plan and [redacted] allocation be approved.

SAMOS Development Plan. This plan provides for a 25 flight vehicle program and maintains a level of effort consistent with a minimum operational research and development program. The SAMOS program has been allocated within the fiscal limitations of $160.0 million in FY 1960 [redacted]. Your approval is recommended.

SAMOS Development/Operational Annex. This annex to the development plan has been prepared to define the necessary funding and describe the items of work, equipments, and additional facilities

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necessary to provide a timely base for a follow operational program. The plans as they stand for the transition phase, research and development and deployment phase of operational capabilities. It is [redacted] that the NIDAS Development/Operational Annex is approved, funds will be provided from Air Force sources.

[redacted] Development Plan. This plan has been studied within the [redacted] concerning the funding of programs and the NIDAS minimum essential R&D plan. The amount [redacted] for NIDAS was $31.1 million in FY 60 [redacted] The research and development objectives and [redacted] were [redacted] encouraged in the plan. However, the impact of this funding rate extends the time schedule of accomplishment of various items of work substantially. This delay of a logical and feasible accomplishment of NIDAS development tasks has required adding to the NIDAS plan a specific section (Tab B, Section X). This section describes those additional R&D tasks and the costs of same (FY 60, $20.6 million) [redacted] which will permit an increase in the [redacted] to raise the program to a minimum essential R&D program. Any program which is less than a minimum essential R&D program will necessarily sacrifice valuable time, reduce efficiency and ultimately add to the over-all program costs. Your approval of the Development Plan together with these additional R&D tasks is recommended. If you concur in our recommendation concerning the development plan, recommend your approval of an Emergency Fund request (being separately processed through Comptroller channels) for $20.6 million to cover the FY 60 costs of the additional R&D tasks noted above.

NIDAS Development/Operational Annex. This annex defines the funding and describes the items of work, equipments and additional facilities, which when added to the minimum essential R&D program provides a logical base from which a follow-on operational program could be projected. It must be pointed out that the NIDAS Development/Operational Annex is based upon essential approval of the NIDAS minimum essential R&D program. It is recommended that the NIDAS Development/Operational Annex be approved to insure the timely completion of the essential tasks necessary to provide a basis for a future operational program.

In addition to the above and in satisfaction of your memorandum of 17 November 1959, a briefing on the Operational Plans for NIDAS and NIDAS systems including details of user relationships will be given to DDR&E and representatives of the three Services on 25 February 1960. A copy of these plans, presently being reviewed by the Air Staff, will be forwarded to you prior to the briefing.

(Signed)
JOSEPH V. CHARYK
Under Secretary of the Air Force

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1. NIDAS R&D Program
2. NIDAS Development/Operl Plan
3. [redacted] R&D Program
4. [redacted] Development/Operl Plan
5. [redacted]